

60¢
U.K. 25p
CAN. 75¢

82
SEPT


MARVEL® COMICS GROUP

APPROVED
BY THE
COMICS
CODE
AUTHORITY



PETER PARKER THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN





The city seems peaceful. That peace is a lie. Even as I stand here, a War rages down on those rain-slashed streets.

A war between citizens and criminals--and the citizens are losing. I'm a Soldier in that war.

My mission: To protect the innocent victims of crime by punishing the criminals.

That's why I'm called the Punisher!

CRIME & PUNISHMENT!

Stan Lee
PRESENTS:

BILL
MANTLO
WRITER

AL
MILGROM
BREAKDOWNS

JIM
MOONEY
INKS

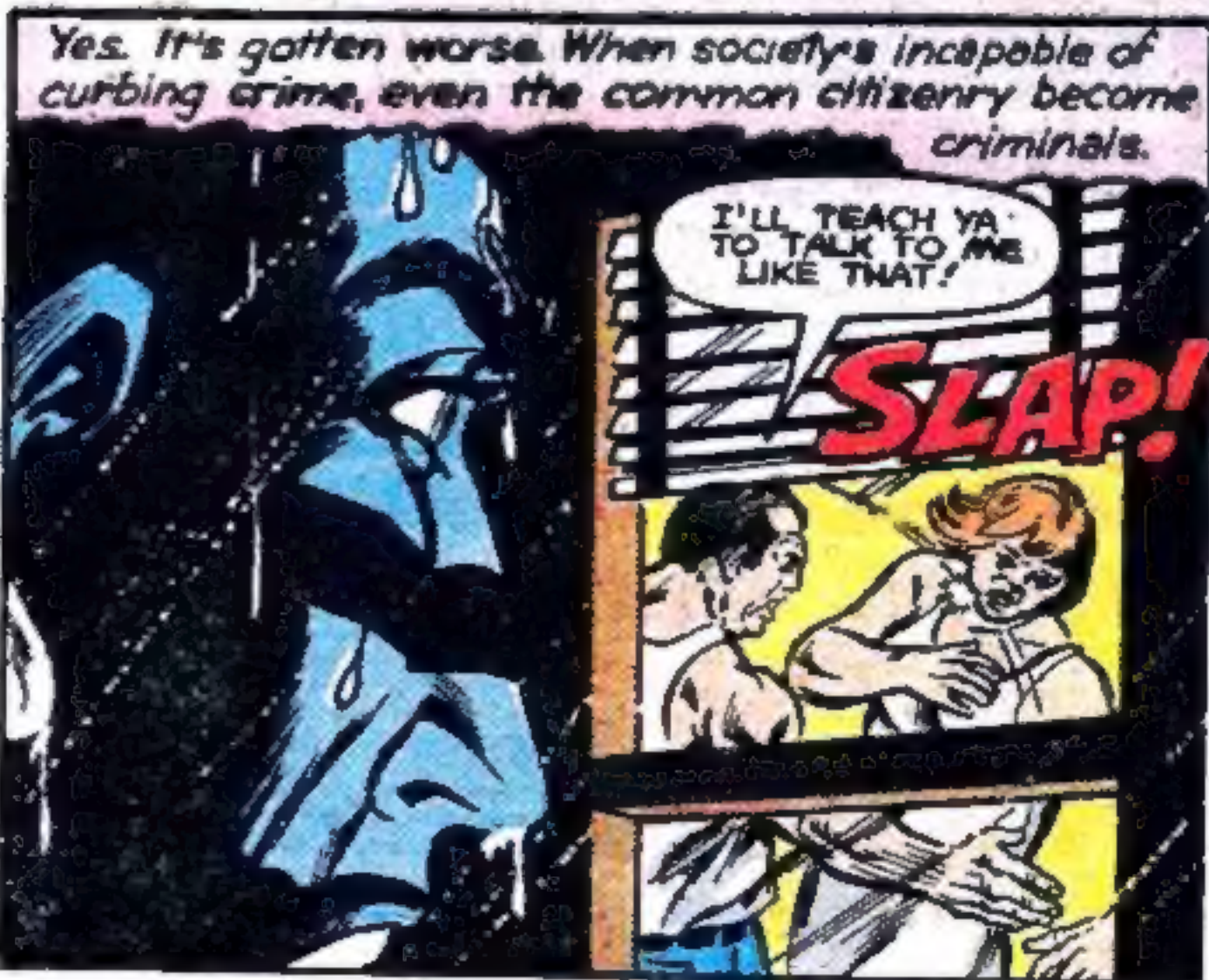
DIANA
ALBERS
LETTERS

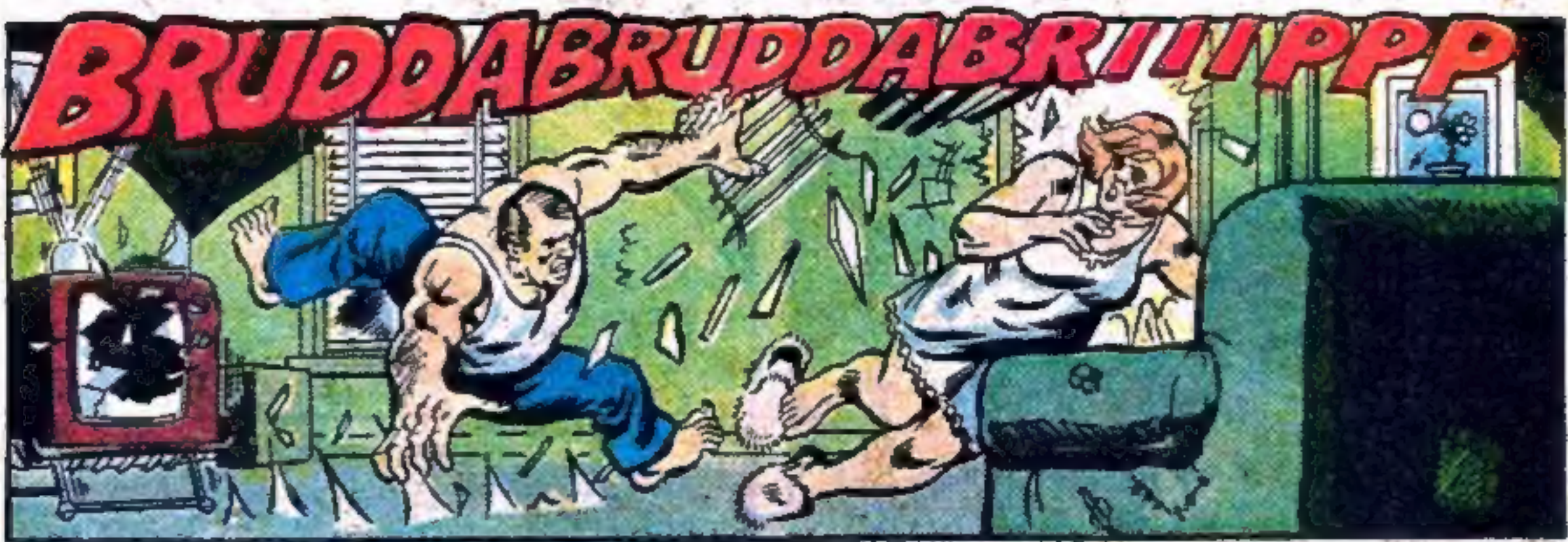
BOB
SHAREN
COLORS

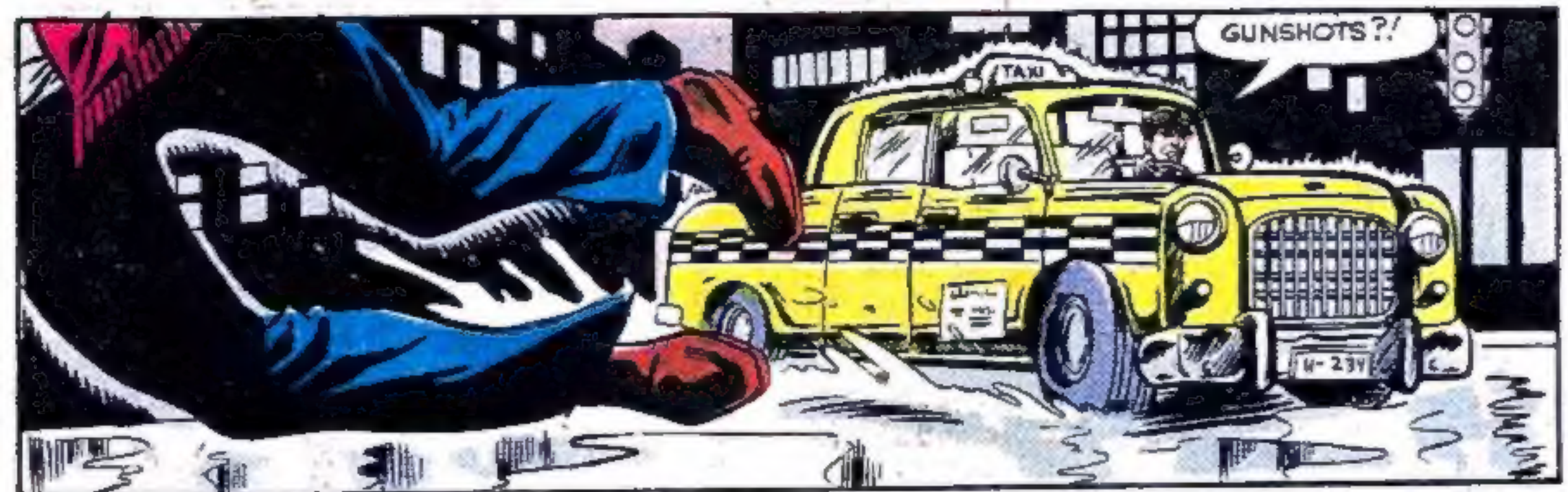
TOM
DEFALCO
EDITOR

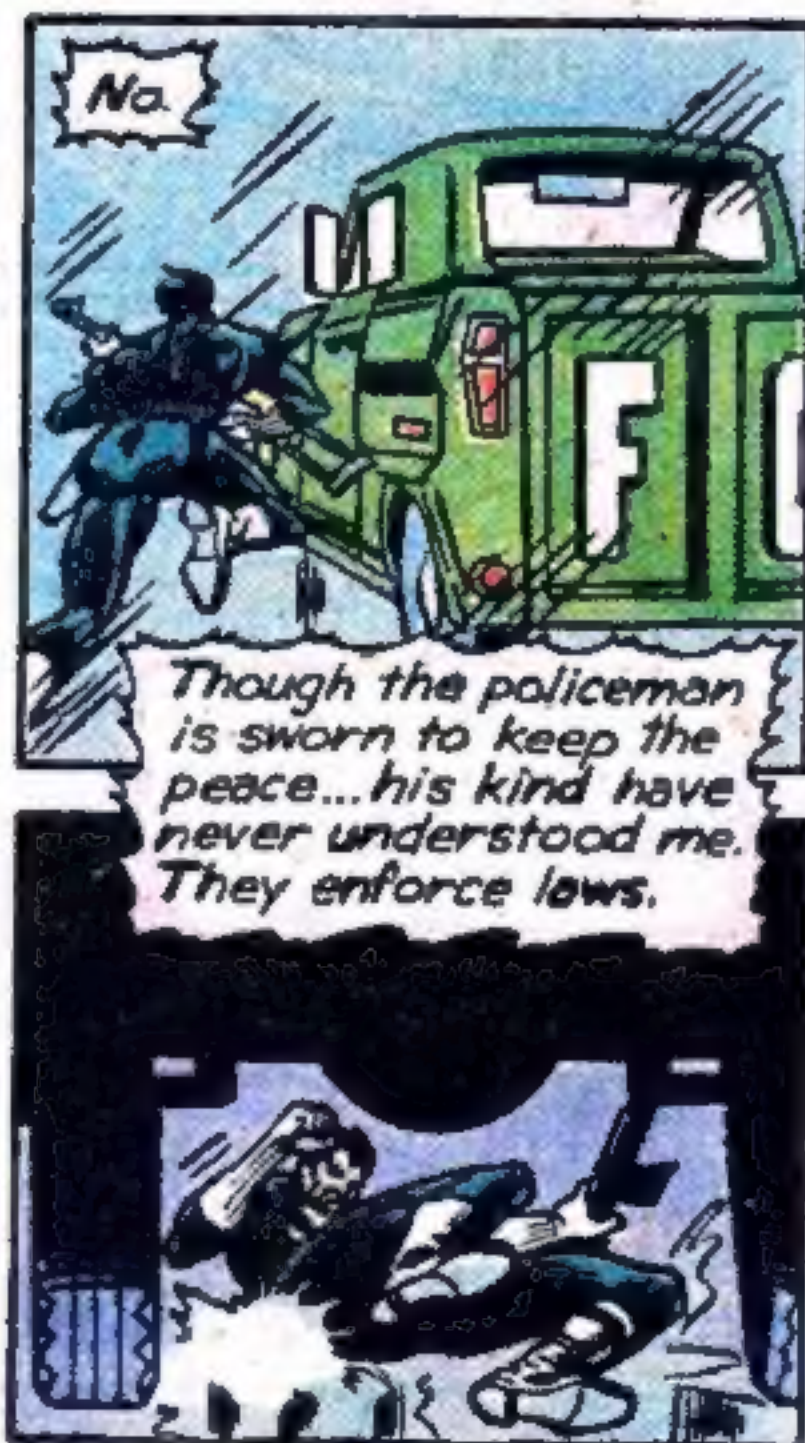
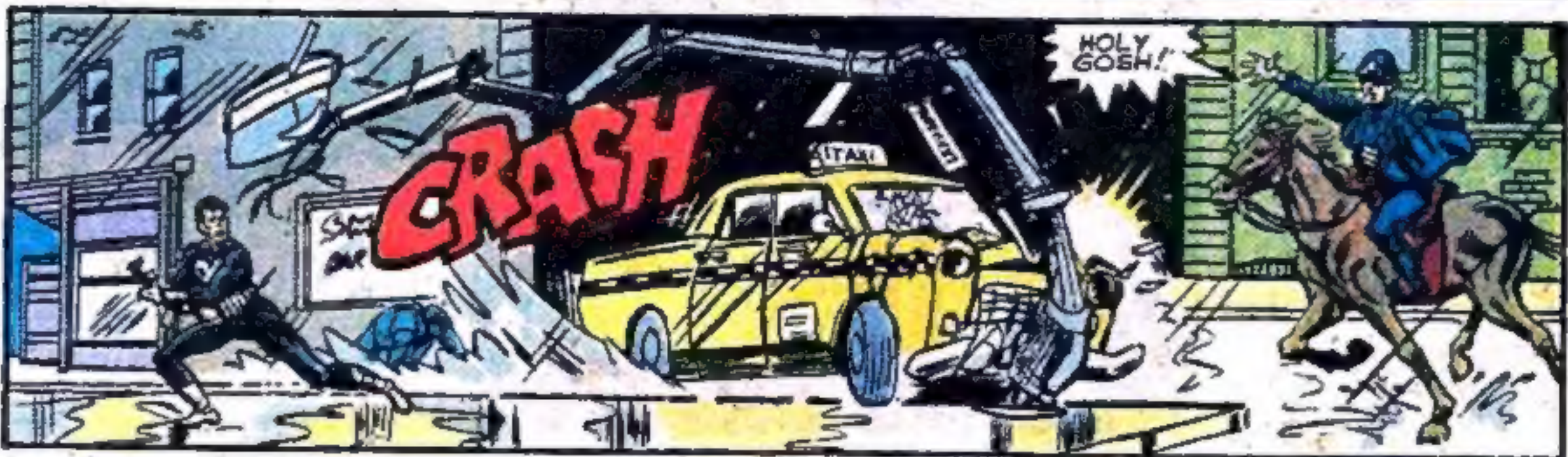
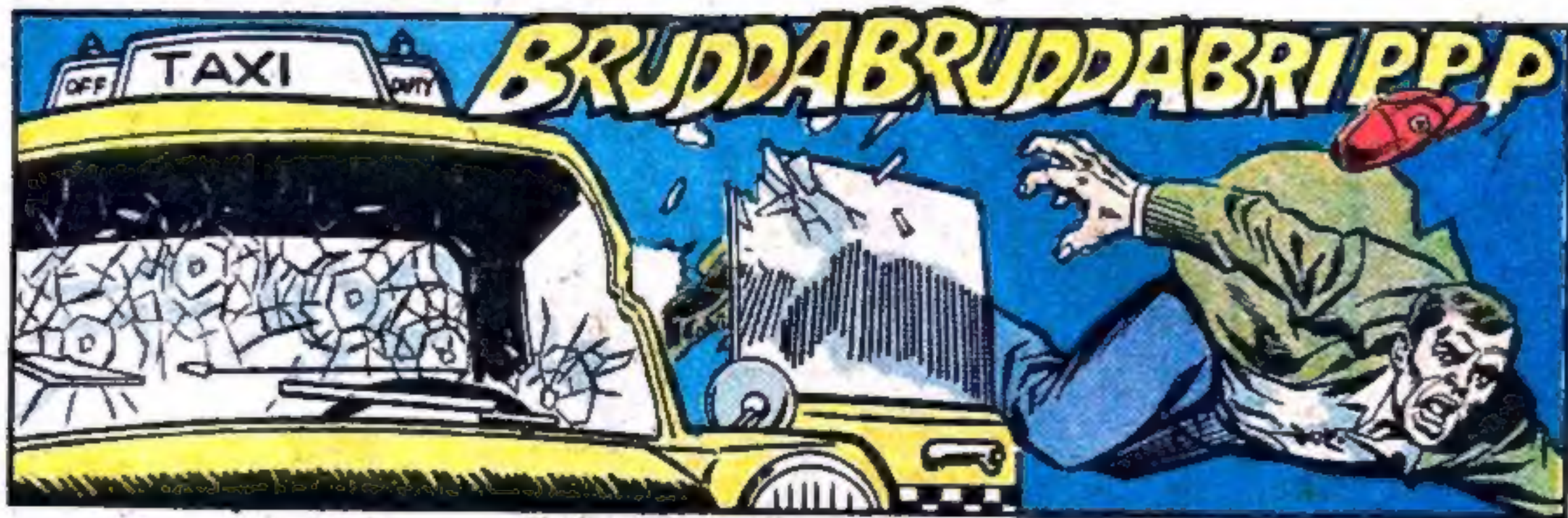
JIM
SHOOTER
KINGPIN

PETER PARKER, THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN™ Vol. 1, No. 82, September, 1983. (ISSN 0273-6632) Published by MARVEL COMICS GROUP, James E. Gailton, President, Stan Lee, Publisher, Michael Hobson, Vice-President, Publishing, Milton Schiffman, Vice-President, Production. OFFICE OF PUBLICATION: 387 PARK AVENUE SOUTH, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10018. Second Class postage paid at New York, NY and at additional mailing offices. Published monthly. Copyright © 1983 by Marvel Comics Group, a division of Cadence Industries Corporation. All rights reserved. Price 60c per copy in the U.S. and 75c in Canada. Subscription rate \$7.20 for 12 issues. Canada and Foreign, \$9.20. Printed in the U.S.A. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons, and/or institutions in this magazine with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental. This periodical may not be sold except by authorized dealers and is sold subject to the conditions that it shall not be sold or distributed with any part of its cover or markings removed, nor in a mutilated condition. SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN (including all prominent characters featured in the issue), and the distinctive likenesses thereof, are trademarks of the MARVEL COMICS GROUP. Postmaster: Send address changes to Subscription Dept., Marvel Comics Group, 387 Park Avenue South, New York, N.Y. 10018.









And I can't wage war on crime from behind bars.

They put me in prison because they said my tactics were as criminal as the criminals I punished.

You can't expect civilians to understand that there's no place for legal niceties on the battlefield.



But I'm grateful to them for one thing... I learned a lot in prison.



I learned the depths of depravity to which men can sink.

I learned the nature of the crimes committed in this city...



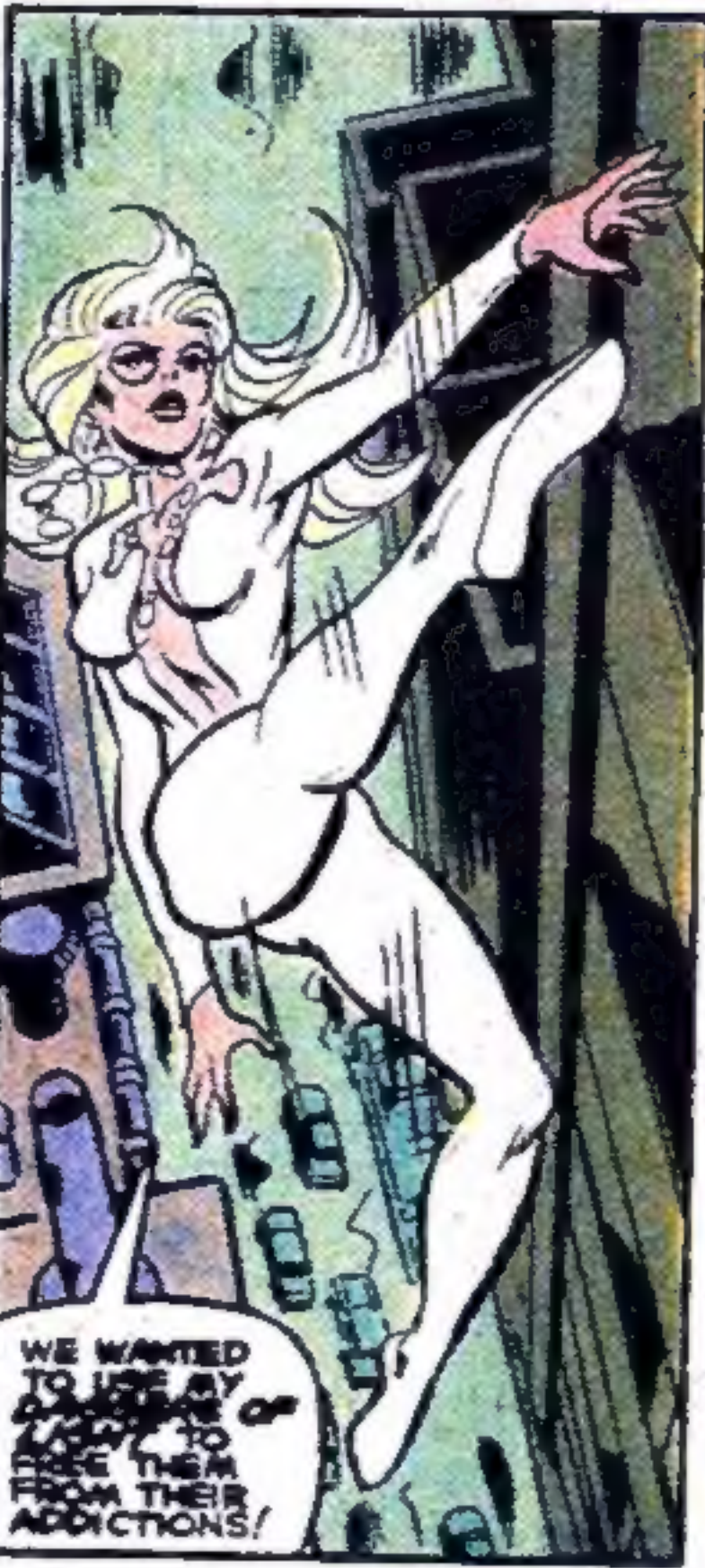
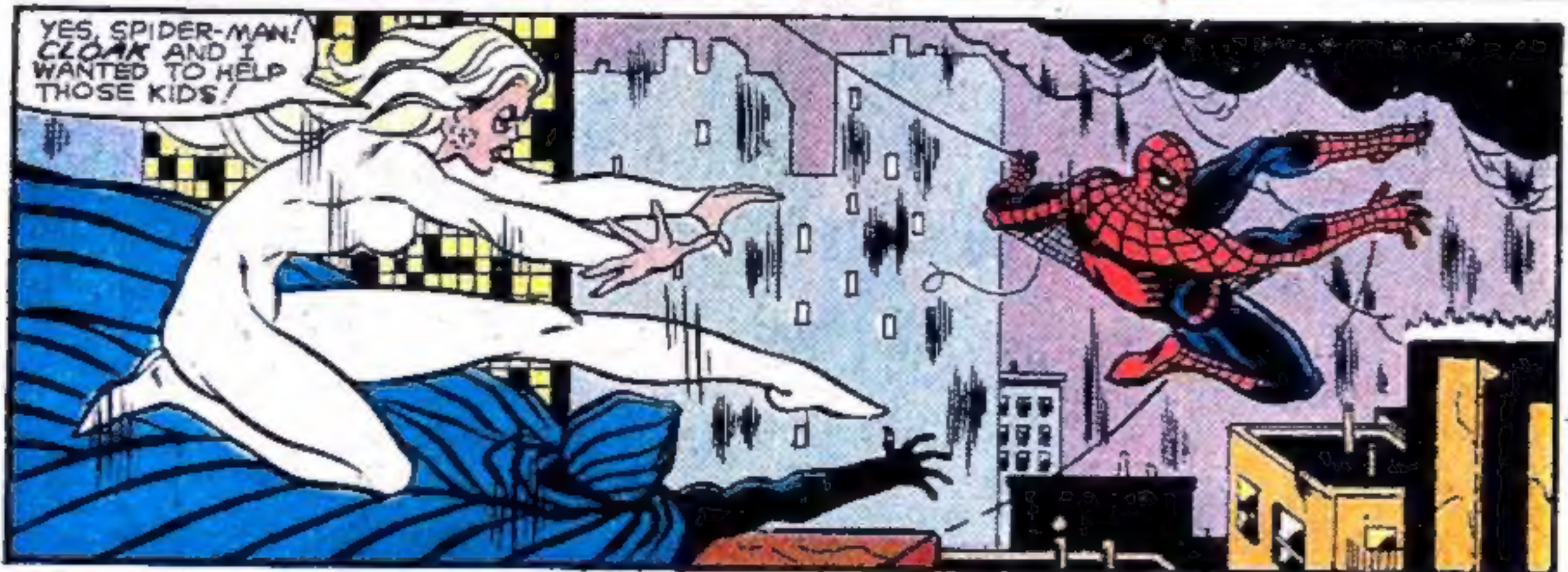
...and the name of the man responsible for planning the most heinous ones...

He's Called **THE KINGPIN** OF CRIME!



My mission... To Kill The Kingpin!







AS THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN RACES
ACROSS THE CITY, HE PASSES COLUMBIA
PRESBYTERIAN HOSPITAL...

I WISH I COULD
STOP HERE—AND
VISIT THE BLACK
CAT!

SHE'S BEEN FEELING
BETTER LATELY—BUT
SHE'S STILL RECOVERING
FROM WOUNDS SHE RE-
CEIVED WEEKS AGO!

SEE ISSUE #76!

I DON'T HAVE THE TIME
TO SEE HER NOW, AND
BESIDES...

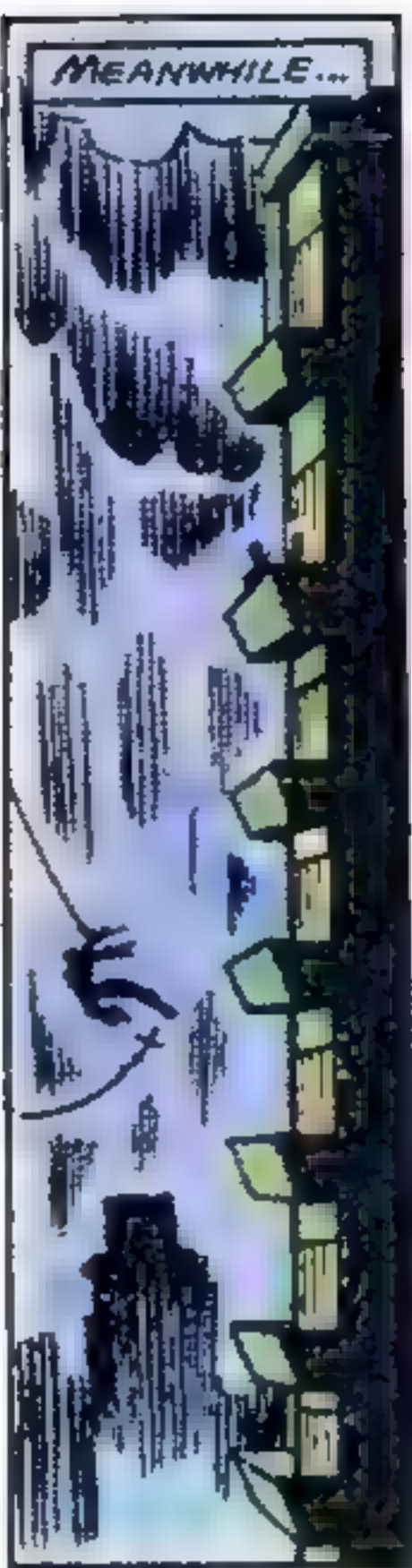
SHE
NEEDS
HER
REST!

I JUST COULDN'T TAKE
ANOTHER NIGHT IN BED!

I'M BORED
AND REST-
LESS...

IT'S TIME
THE BLACK
CAT PROMLED
AGAIN!

MY DOCTORS
WOULD BE FURIOUS
IF THEY KNEW I
ONLY PRETENDED TO
TAKE MY EVENING
SLEEPING PILL!





-- AND SO, YOU HAVE COME TO PROTECT ME!

YOU'RE ASSUMING AN AWFUL LOT!

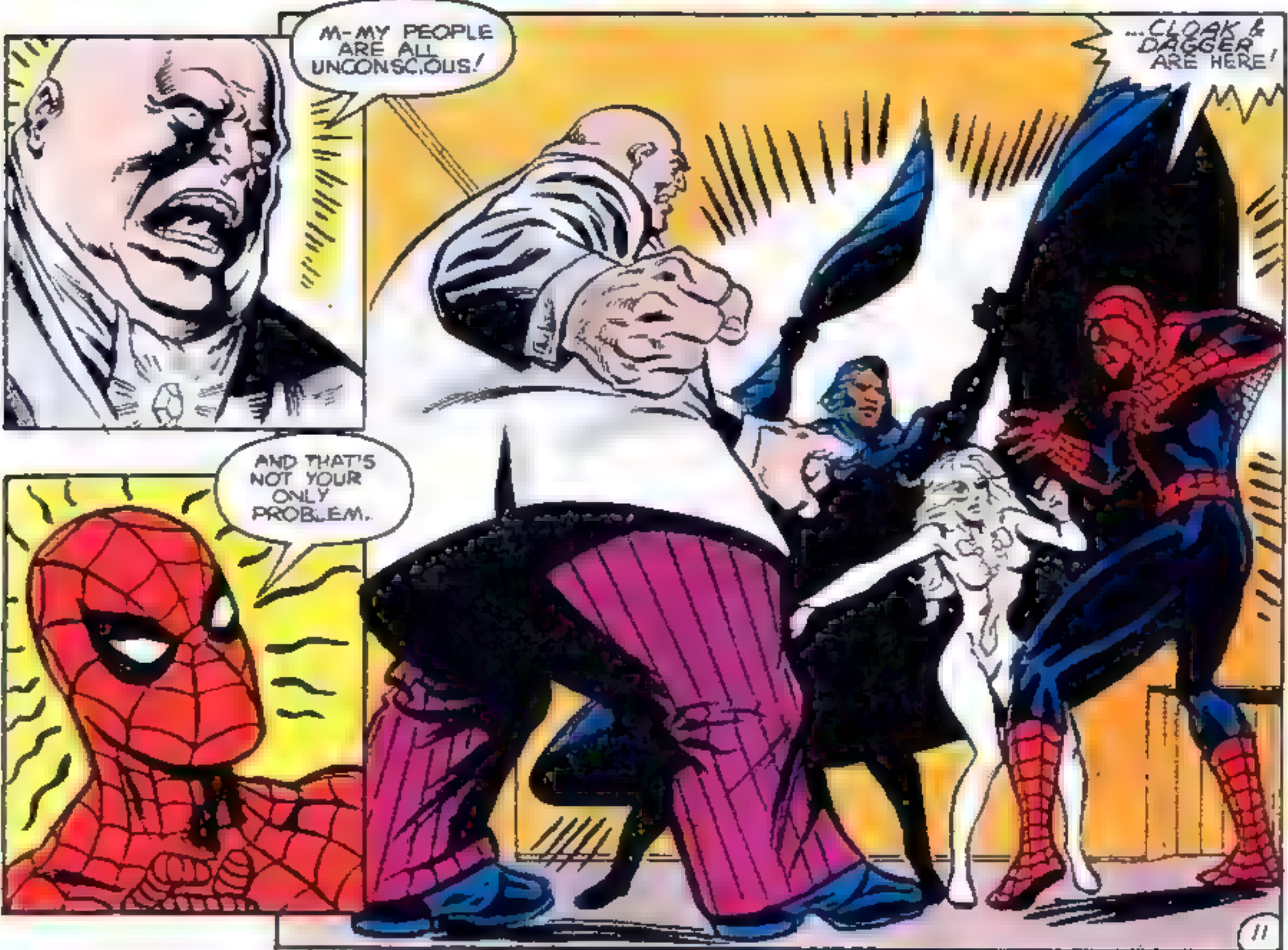
I ASSUME NOTHING. I KNOW YOU SUFFICIENTLY WELL...



HOWEVER, YOU NEEDN'T HAVE COME. EVERY INCH OF MY TOWER IS MONITORED BY ELECTRONIC AND HUMAN...



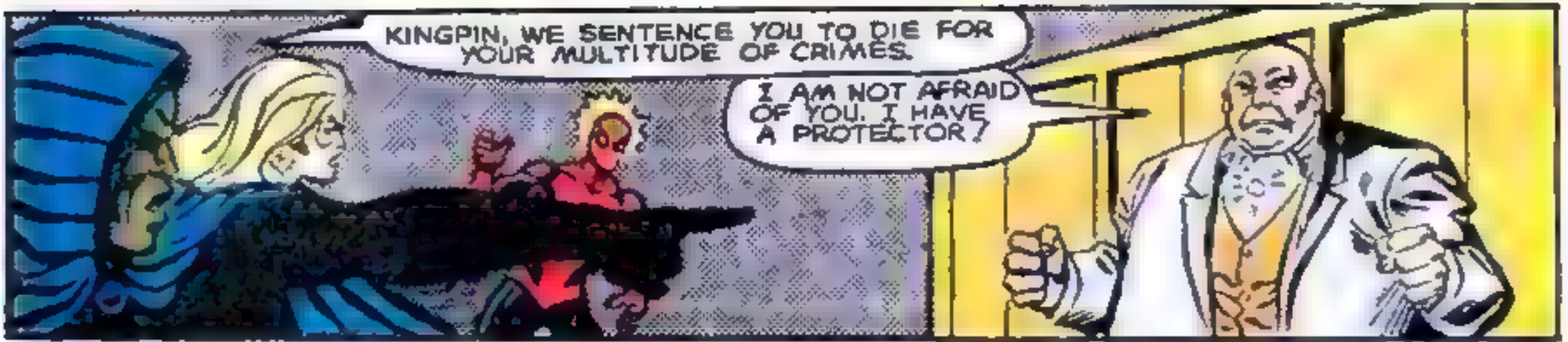
...GUARDS?!



M-MY PEOPLE ARE ALL UNCONSCIOUS!

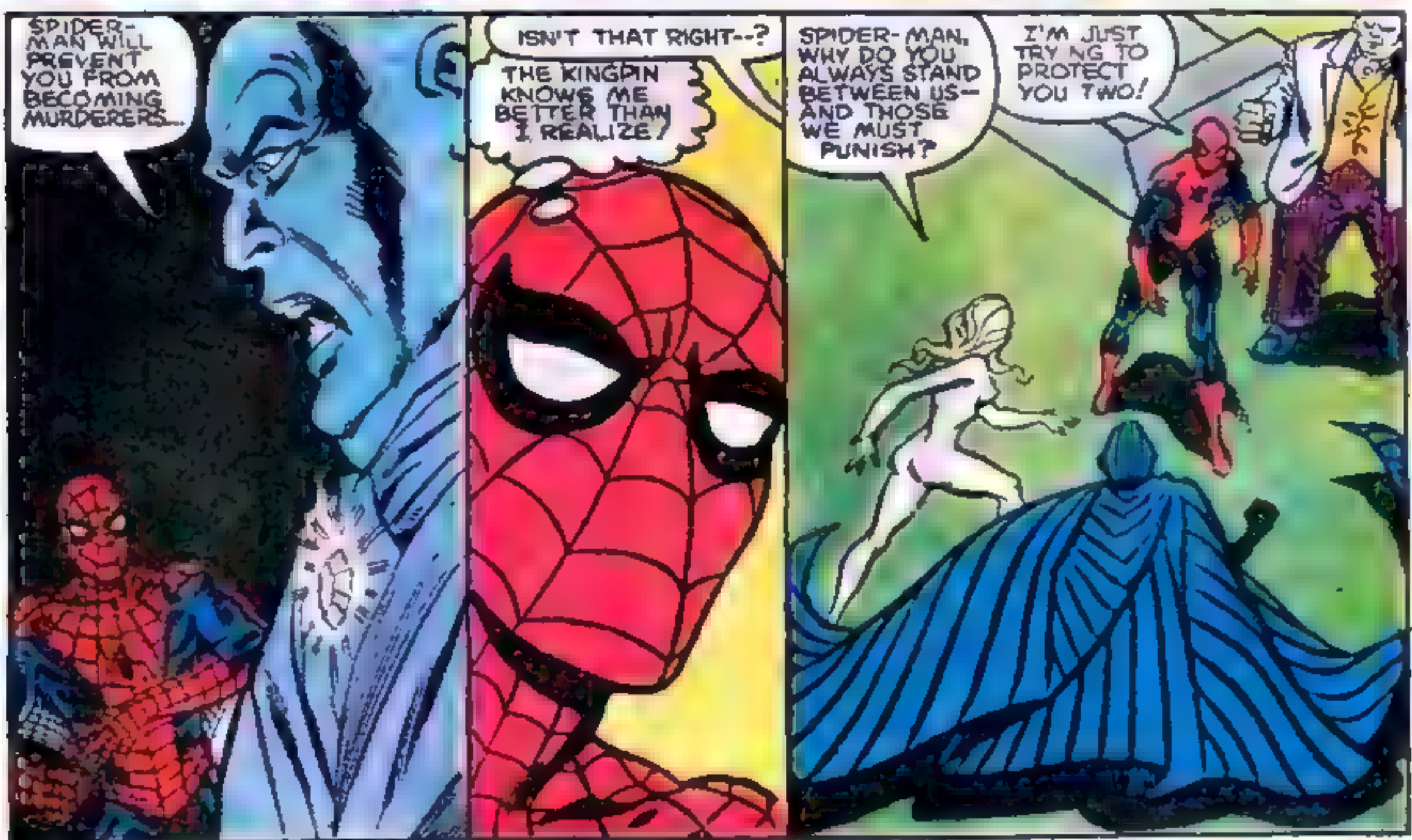
...CLOAK & DAGGER ARE HERE!

AND THAT'S NOT YOUR ONLY PROBLEM.



KINGPIN, WE SENTENCE YOU TO DIE FOR YOUR MULTITUDE OF CRIMES.

I AM NOT AFRAID OF YOU. I HAVE A PROTECTOR?



SPIDER-MAN WILL PREVENT YOU FROM BECOMING MURDERERS...

ISN'T THAT RIGHT--? THE KINGPIN KNOWS ME BETTER THAN I REALIZE?

SPIDER-MAN, WHY DO YOU ALWAYS STAND BETWEEN US-- AND THOSE WE MUST PUNISH?

I'M JUST TRYING TO PROTECT YOU TWO!

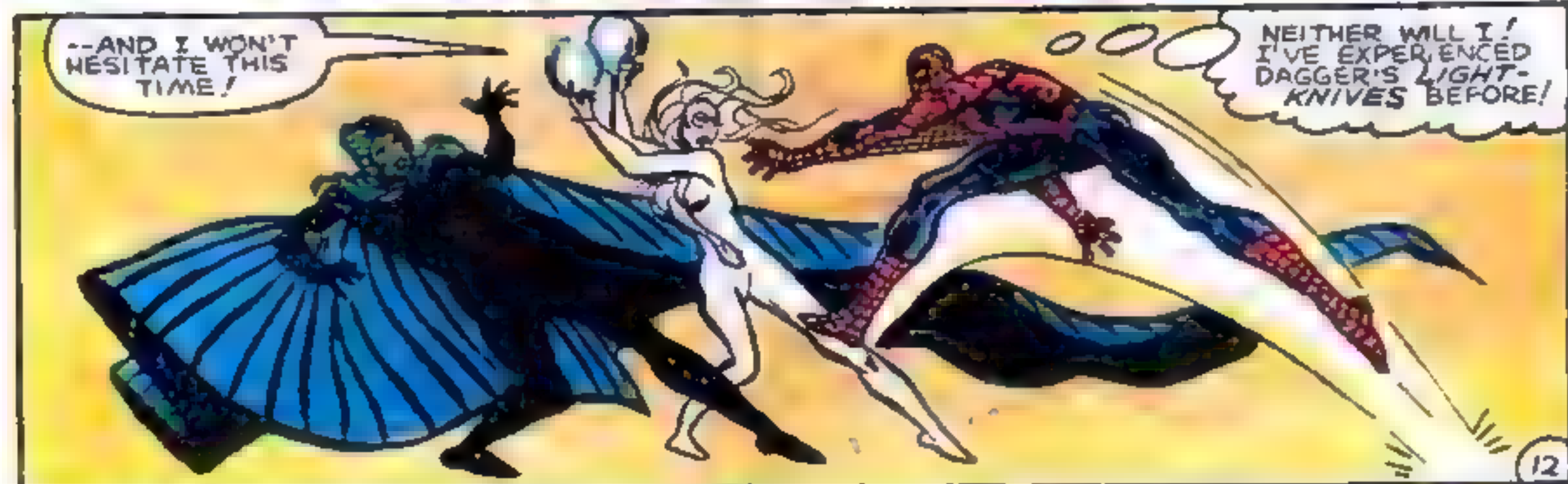


YOUR ALLEGIANCE TO THE KINGPIN MAKES YOU AS MUCH A CRIMINAL AS HE.

THUS, YOU MUST PERISH WITH HIM.

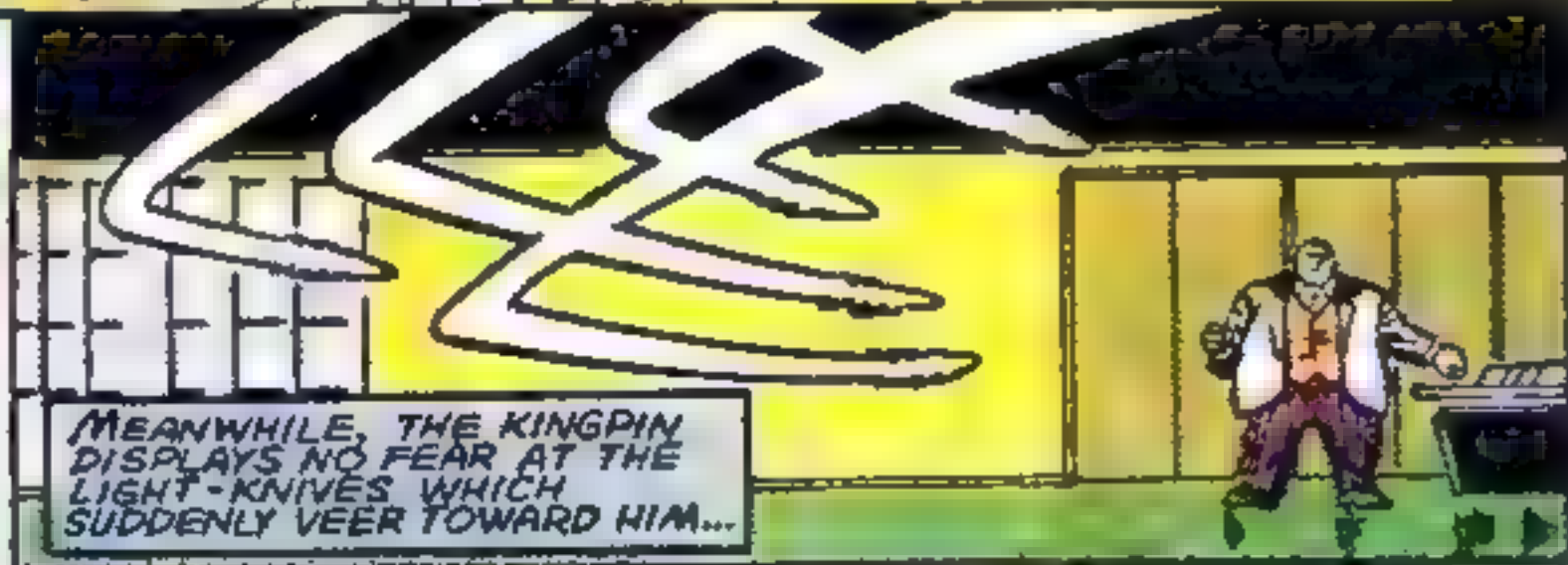
DAGGER!

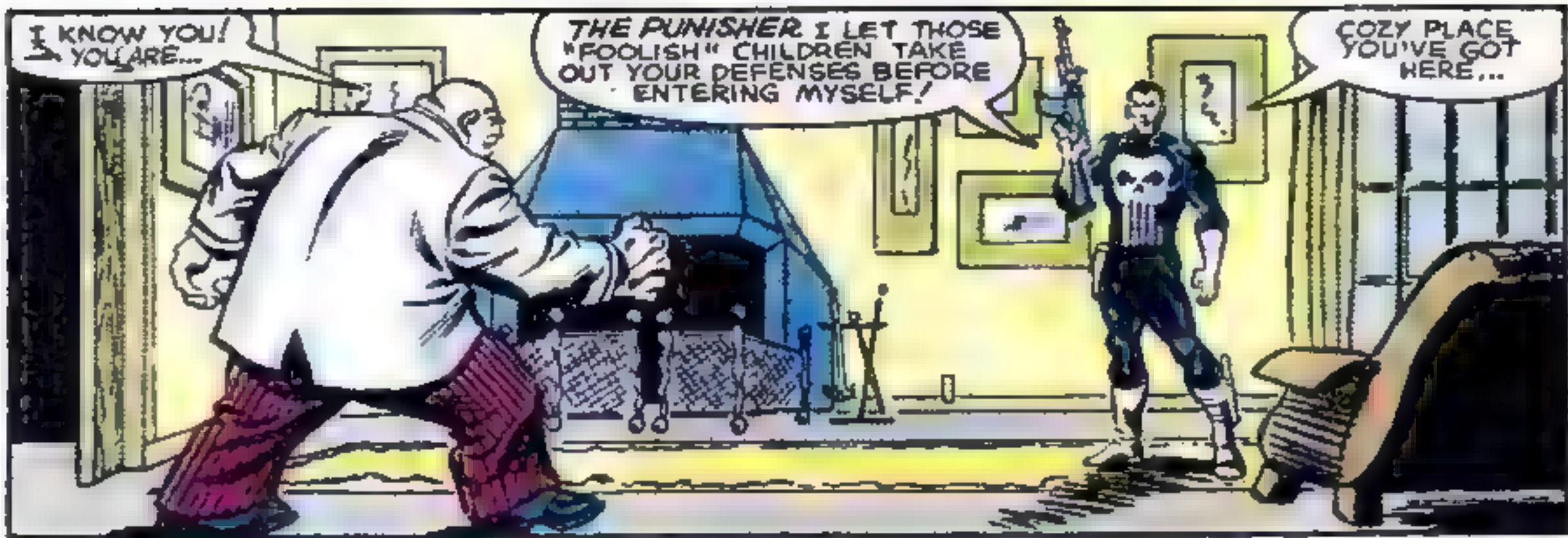
I KNOW WHAT TO DO, CLOAK--



--AND I WON'T HESITATE THIS TIME!

NEITHER WILL I! I'VE EXPERIENCED DAGGER'S LIGHT-KNIVES BEFORE!

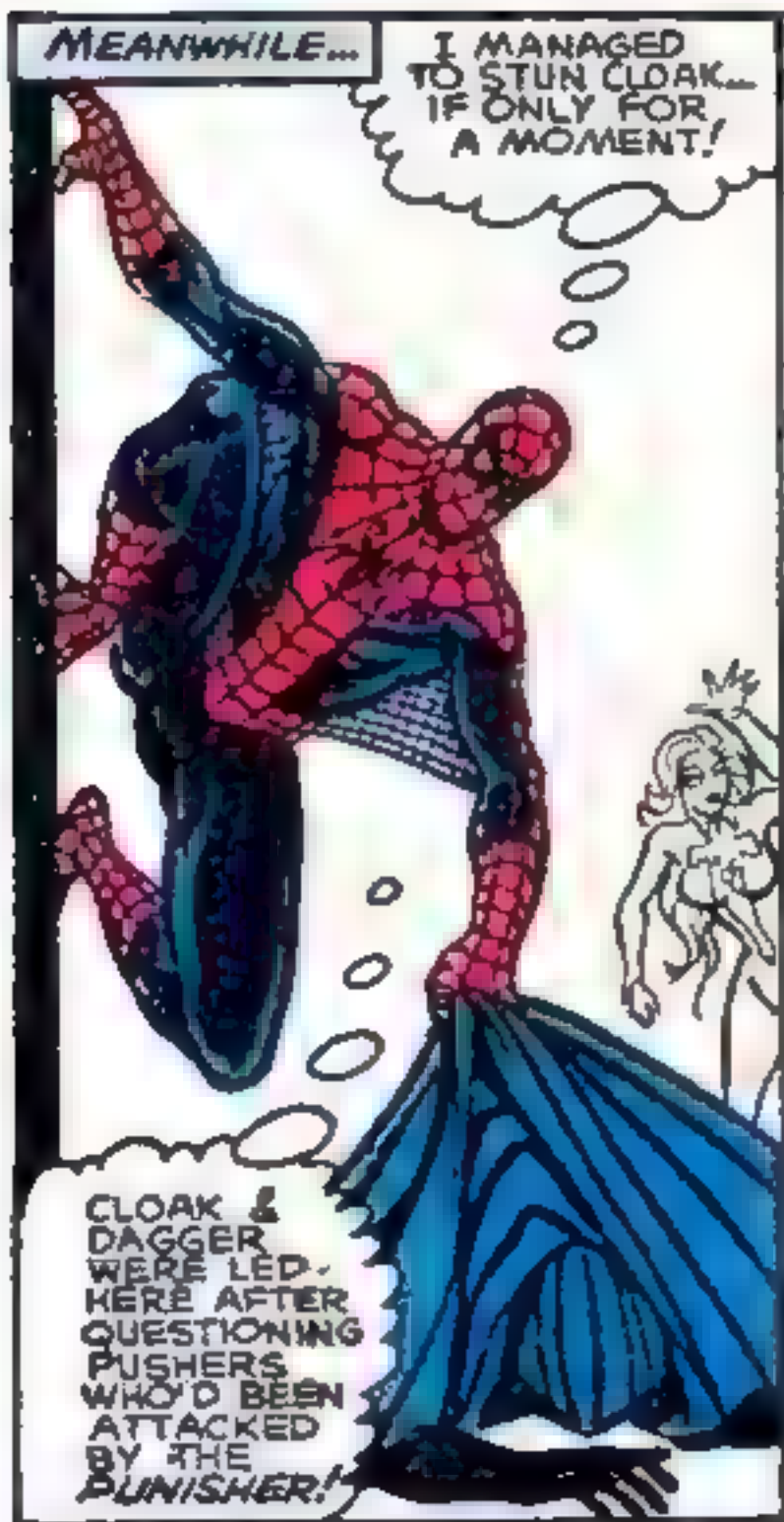




I KNOW YOU!
YOU ARE...

THE PUNISHER I LET THOSE
"FOOLISH" CHILDREN TAKE
OUT YOUR DEFENSES BEFORE
ENTERING MYSELF!

COZY PLACE
YOU'VE GOT
HERE...



MEANWHILE...

I MANAGED
TO STUN CLOAK...
IF ONLY FOR
A MOMENT!

CLOAK &
DAGGER
WERE LED
HERE AFTER
QUESTIONING
PUSHERS
WHO'D BEEN
ATTACKED
BY THE
PUNISHER!



MAYBE HE DID THAT
DELIBERATELY-- TO
GET THEM TO COME
AFTER THE KINGPIN...
TO CREATE A DIVER-
SION... WHILE HE
DEALT WITH THE FAT
MAN HIMSELF!

UH-OH!
CLOAK'S
STIRRING...



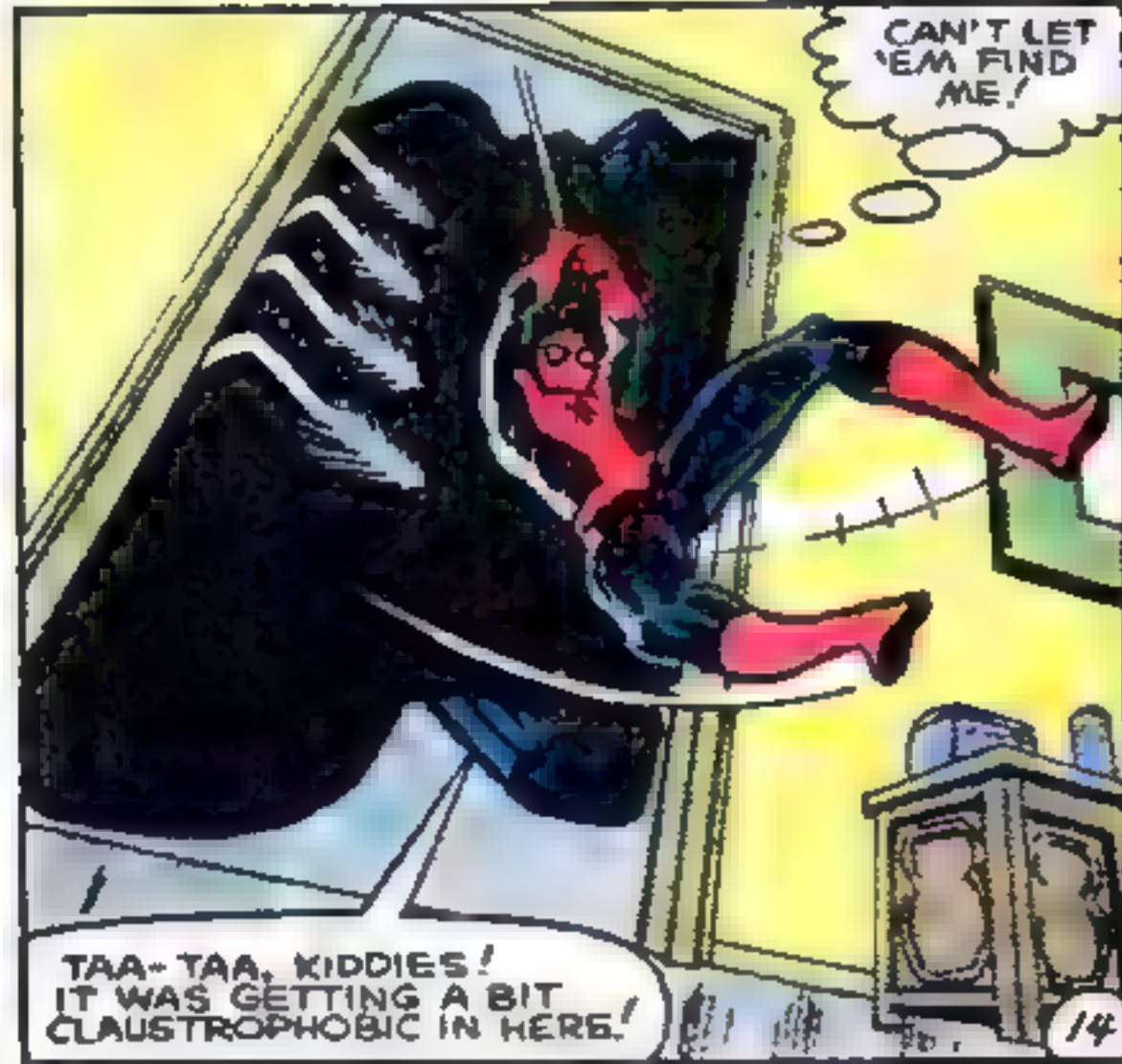
HE'S UN-
LEASHING
A FLOOD
OF--



TOTAL
DARKNESS!

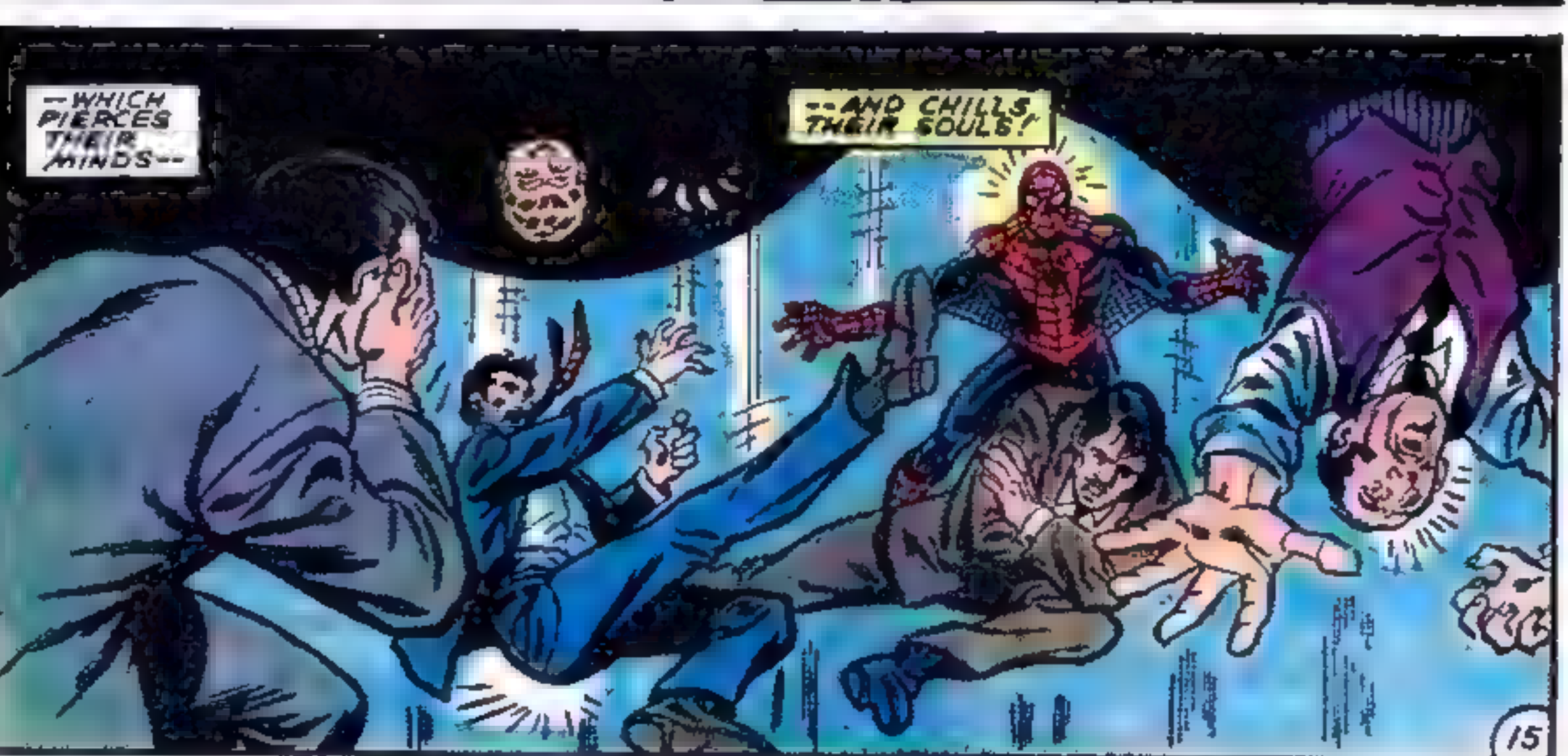
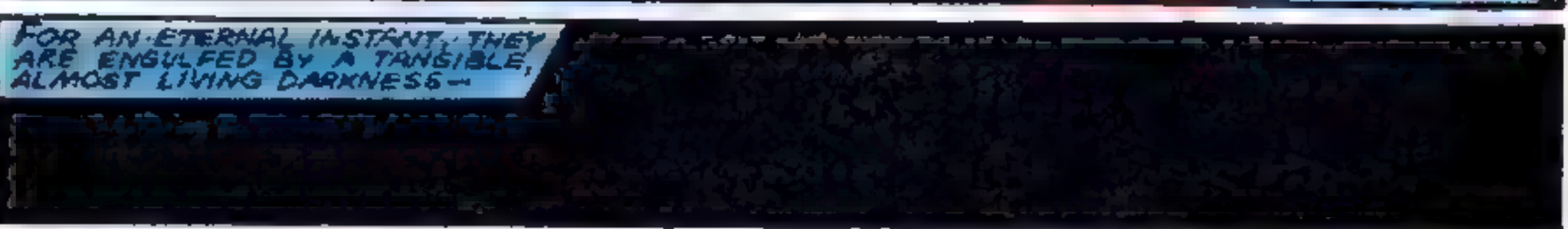
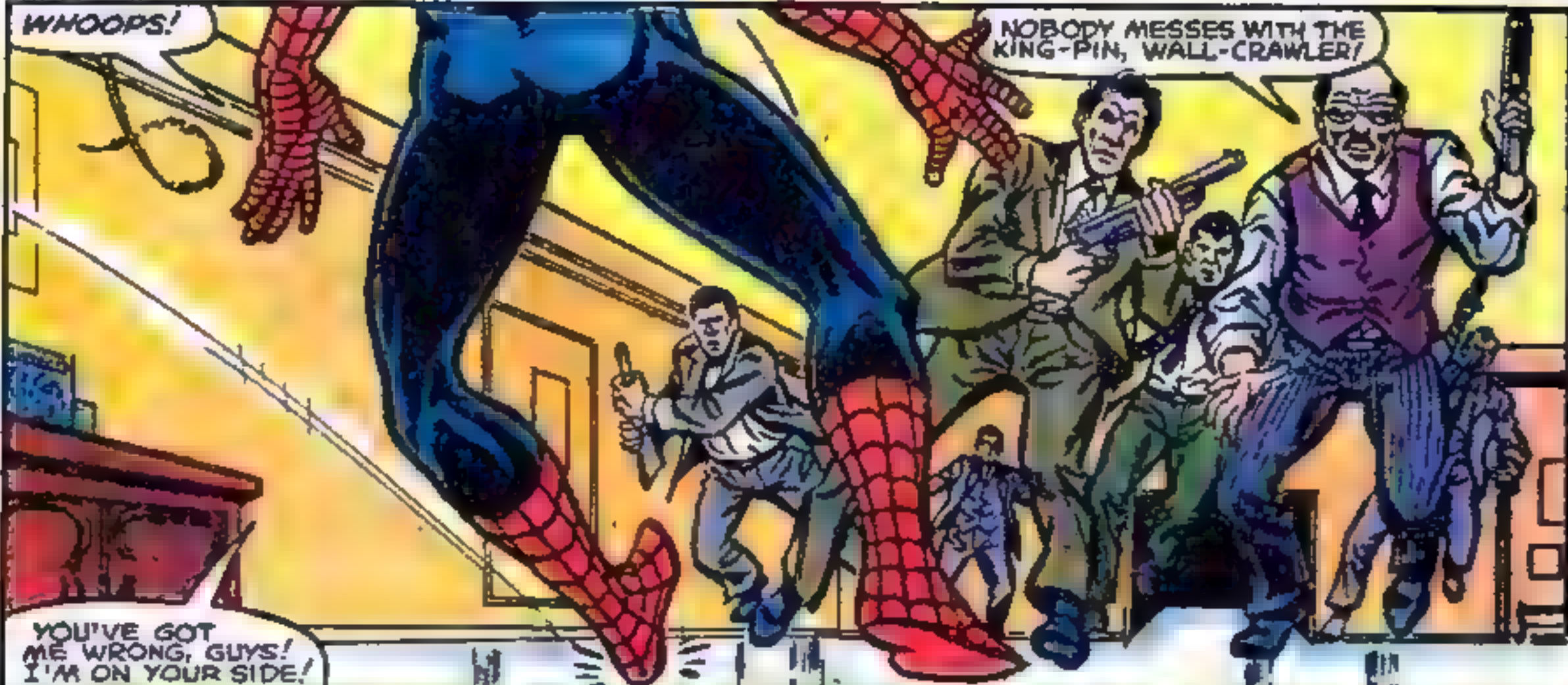


AND NOW
DAGGER'S LIGHT KNIVES
ARE SLICING TOWARD ME.



CAN'T LET
'EM FIND
ME!

TAA-TAA, KIDDIES!
IT WAS GETTING A BIT
CLAUSTROPHOBIC IN HERE!





THEIR FATE COULD
HAVE BEEN YOURS,
SPIDER-MAN!

STOP
DEFENDING
THE KING-
PIN! LET
US HAVE
HIM!

I'M NOT
TRYIN' TO
BE FUNNY...
BUT CAN'T YOU
TWO SEE ANY
SHADES OTHER
THAN BLACK
AND WHITE?



EVEN THE KINGPIN
DESERVES JUSTICE!



HE SHALL
HAVE
JUSTICE!
THE
JUSTICE
OF CLOAK
& DAGGER!



CLOAK, MAYBE SPIDER-
MAN'S RIGHT...



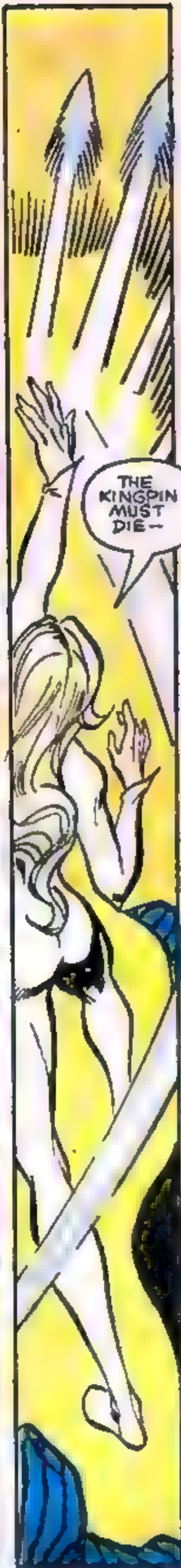
NO!

WE DO WHAT
WE MUST!



SUCH IS OUR CURSE!

YES...



THE
KINGPIN
MUST
DIE--



-- AND YOU, SPIDER-
MAN, ARE IN OUR
WAY!

GOT TO FALL BACK
BEFORE THOSE LIGHT-
KNIVES CAN--

OH, NO! CLOAK
MUST HAVE
TELEPORTED
BEHIND ME!



CAN'T
ESCAPE HIS
CAPE OF
DARKNESS!

ELSEWHERE...

THESE KIDS ARE PRETTY GOOD—AREN'T THEY, KINGPIN? CLOAK & DAGGER, I MEAN. I SPOTTED THEM TAKING ON A PACK OF JUNKIES.

THEY WERE IMPRESSIVE... BUT, IN THE END, THEY WIMPED OUT! THEY CURED THE DRUGGIES INSTEAD OF KILLING 'EM.

MISTAKE.

YOU'VE GOT TO PUNISH THOSE WHO BREAK THE LAW...

I'M GOING TO PUNISH YOU, KINGPIN—

OTHER MEN HAVE TRIED—

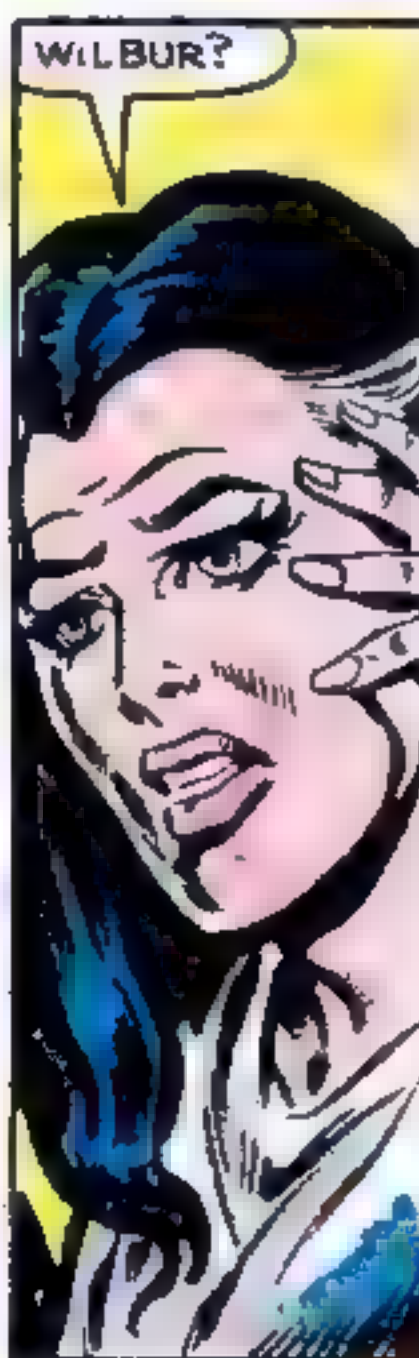
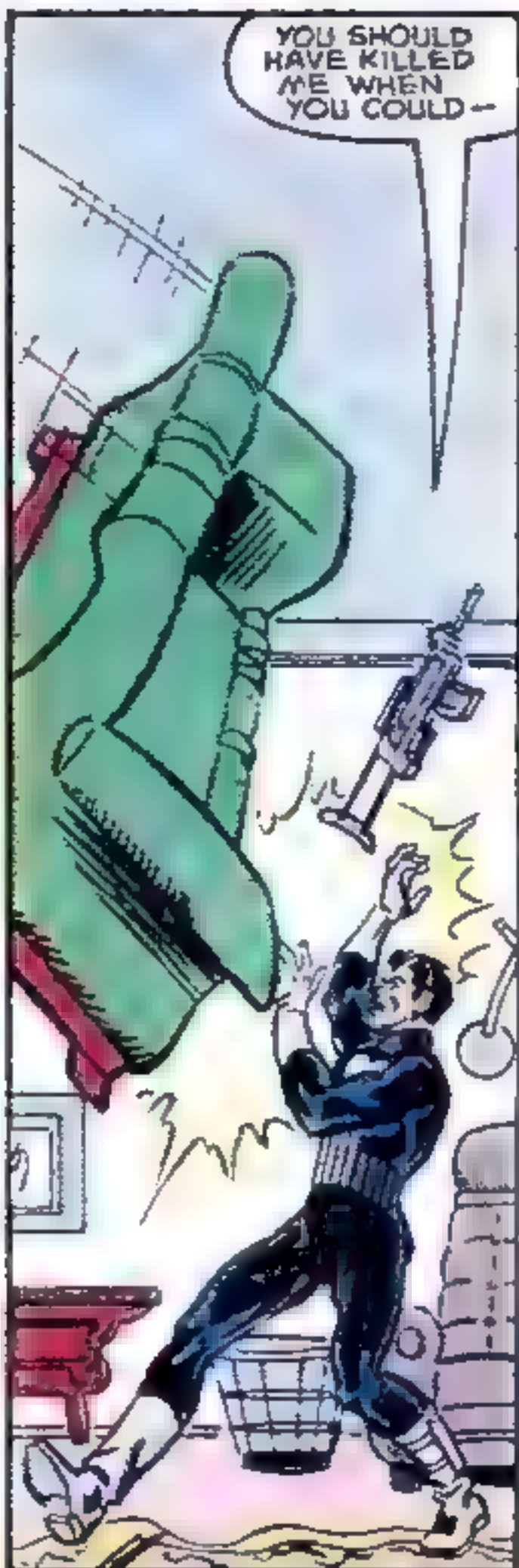
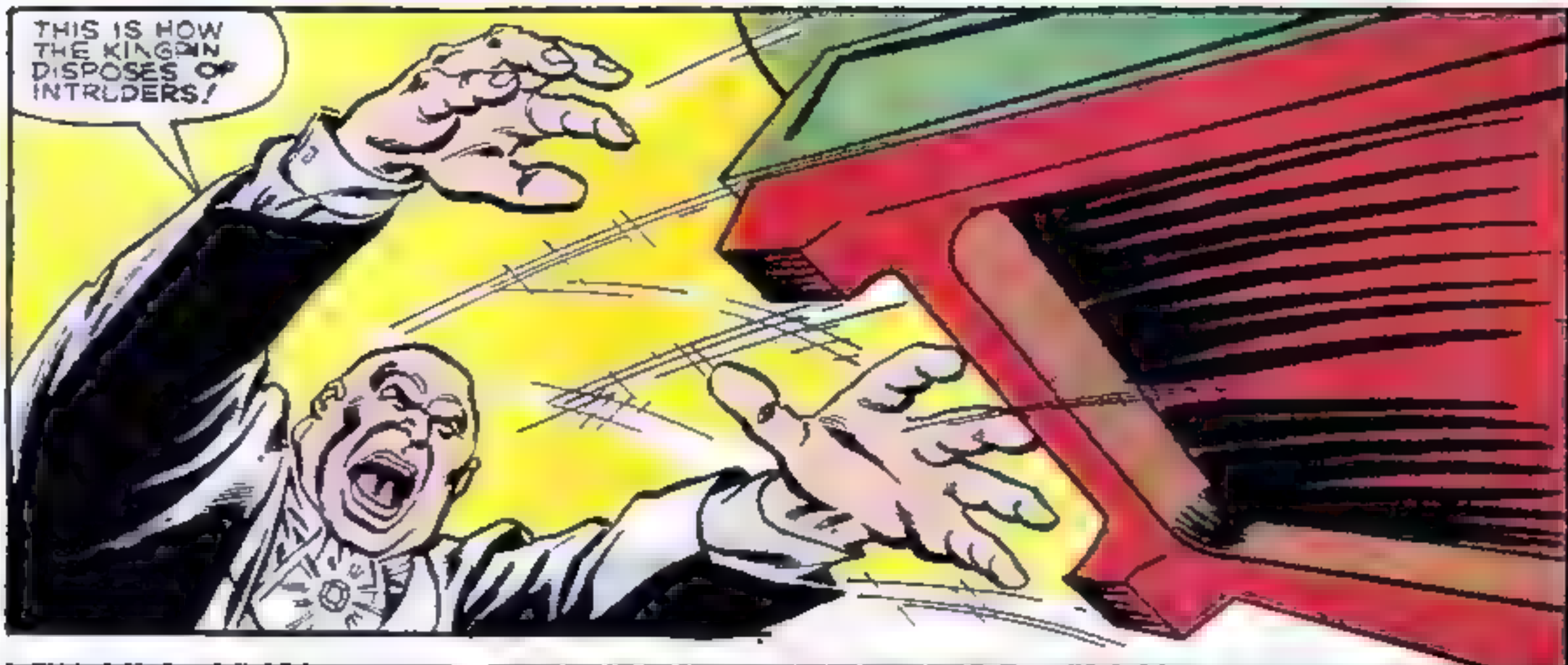
PUNISH 'EM SO THEY CAN'T BREAK IT AGAIN.

BAPBAPBAP

--AND FAILED!

ALL HAVE PAID THE PRICE FOR DARING TO ATTACK--

--THE KINGPIN OF CRIME!



ELSEWHERE, DEEP
WITHIN THE MAN
CALLED CLOAK...

SO COLD IN
HERE! I'VE GOT TO
GET OUT--BUT I DON'T
KNOW THE WAY!

MEANWHILE...

STOP YOUR
LIGHT-KNIVES,
DAGGER!

I CAN'T
CONTROL
THEM AFTER
THEY'VE BEEN
RELEASED--

"--AND THEY'RE
STILL SEEKING
SPIDER-MAN!"

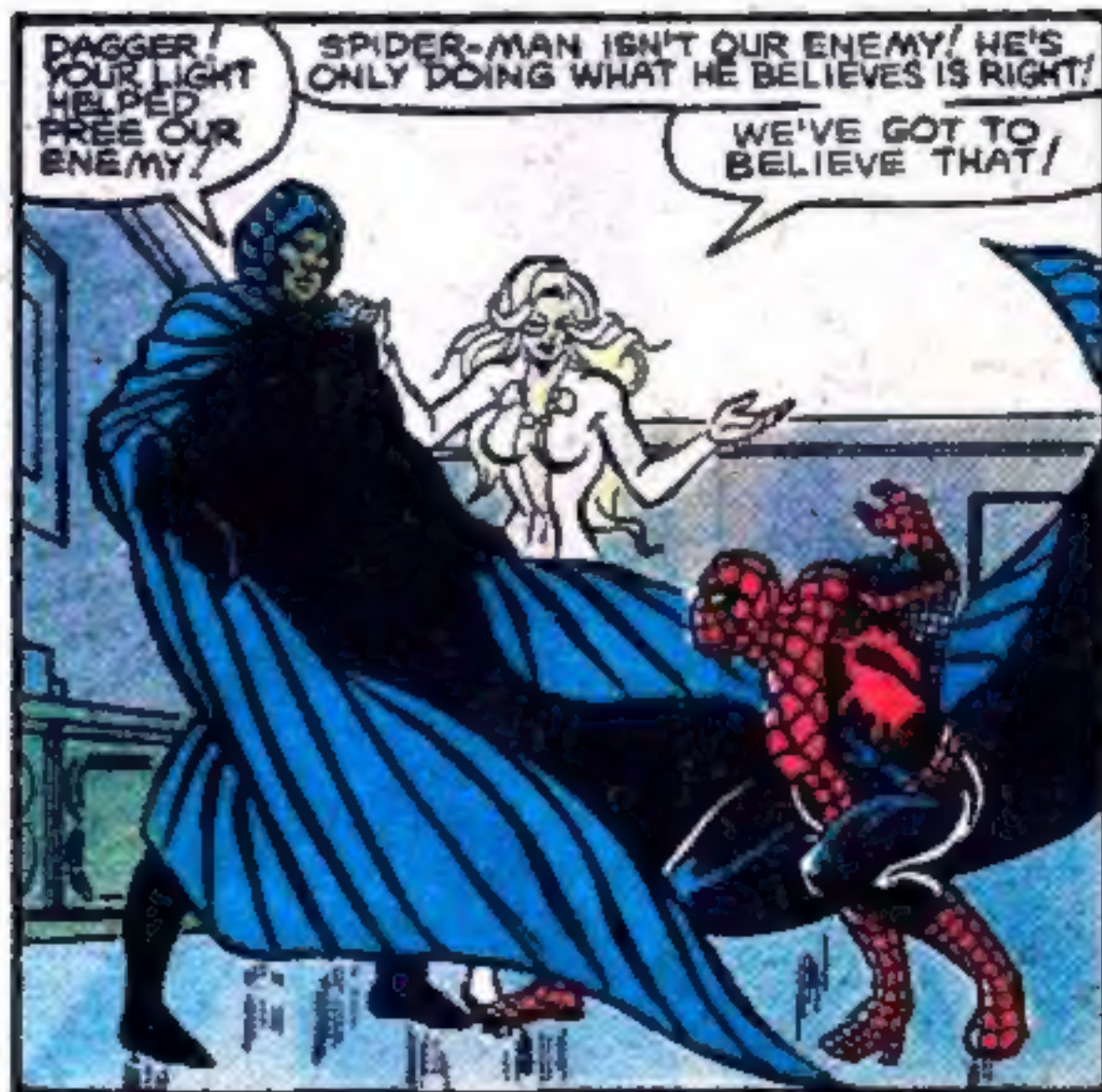
LIGHT PENETRATES THE
DARKNESS THAT IS CLOAK...

--AND HIS CRY IS ONE OF
SHEER UNBRIDLED JOY!

LIGHT!
I SEE
LIGHT
IN THE
DARKNESS!

GOT TO
FOLLOW
IT! MAYBE
IT'LL SHOW
ME THE
WAY--

--OUT
OF
HERE!





I'VE GOT TO STOP THEM! BUT THEY COULD BE ANYWH--UH-OH!

HERE COME MORE OF THE KINGPIN'S TROOPS!



EXCUSE ME, BOYS, BUT I'VE GOT AN APPOINTMENT WITH YOUR BOSS --



-- AND YOU KNOW HOW HE HATES TO BE KEPT WAITING!

AND MOMENTS LATER...



HAVING RENDERED THE LAST OF THE GUNNERS UNCONSCIOUS, SPIDER-MAN RETURNS TO THE KINGPIN'S BOARDROOM...

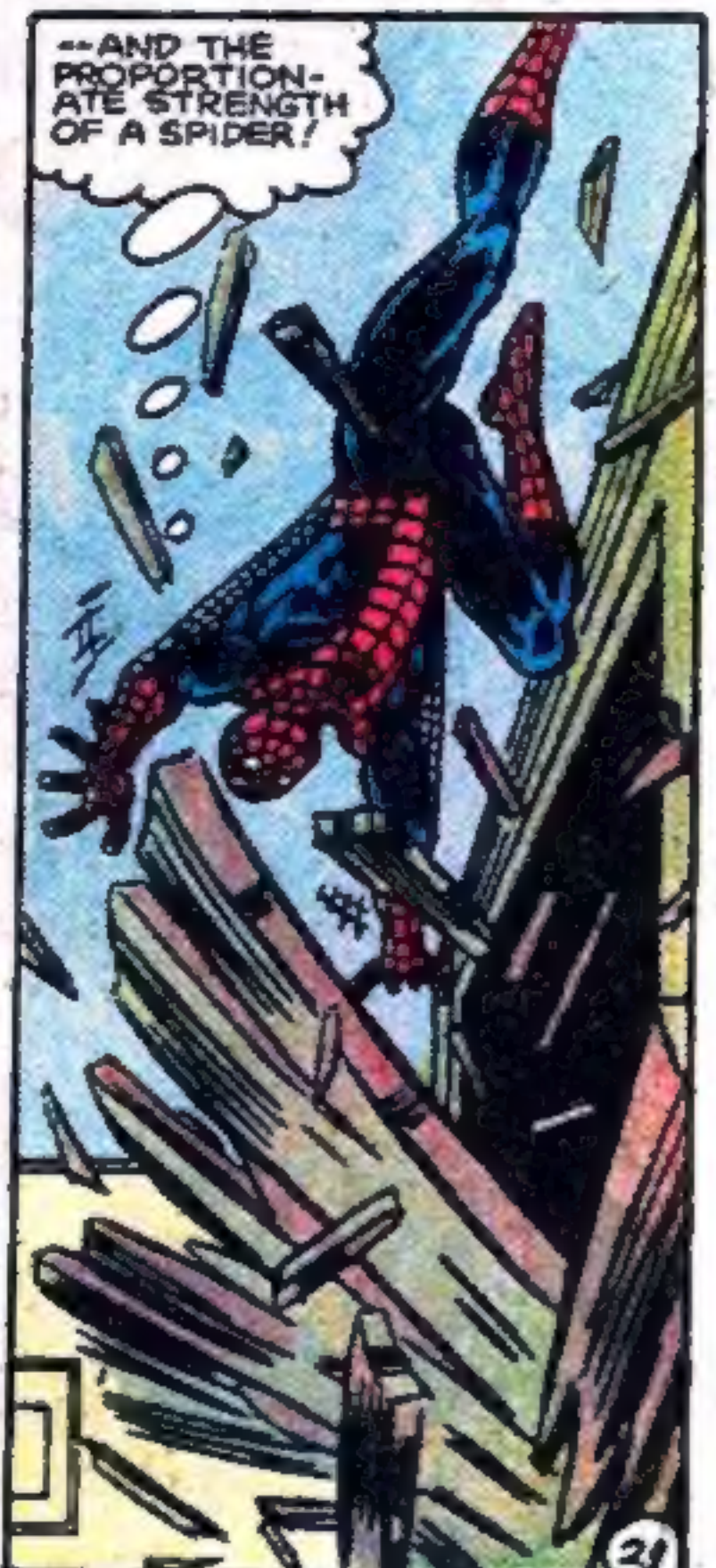
THIS IS WHERE HE TOOK A POWDER DURING THE FIGHT!



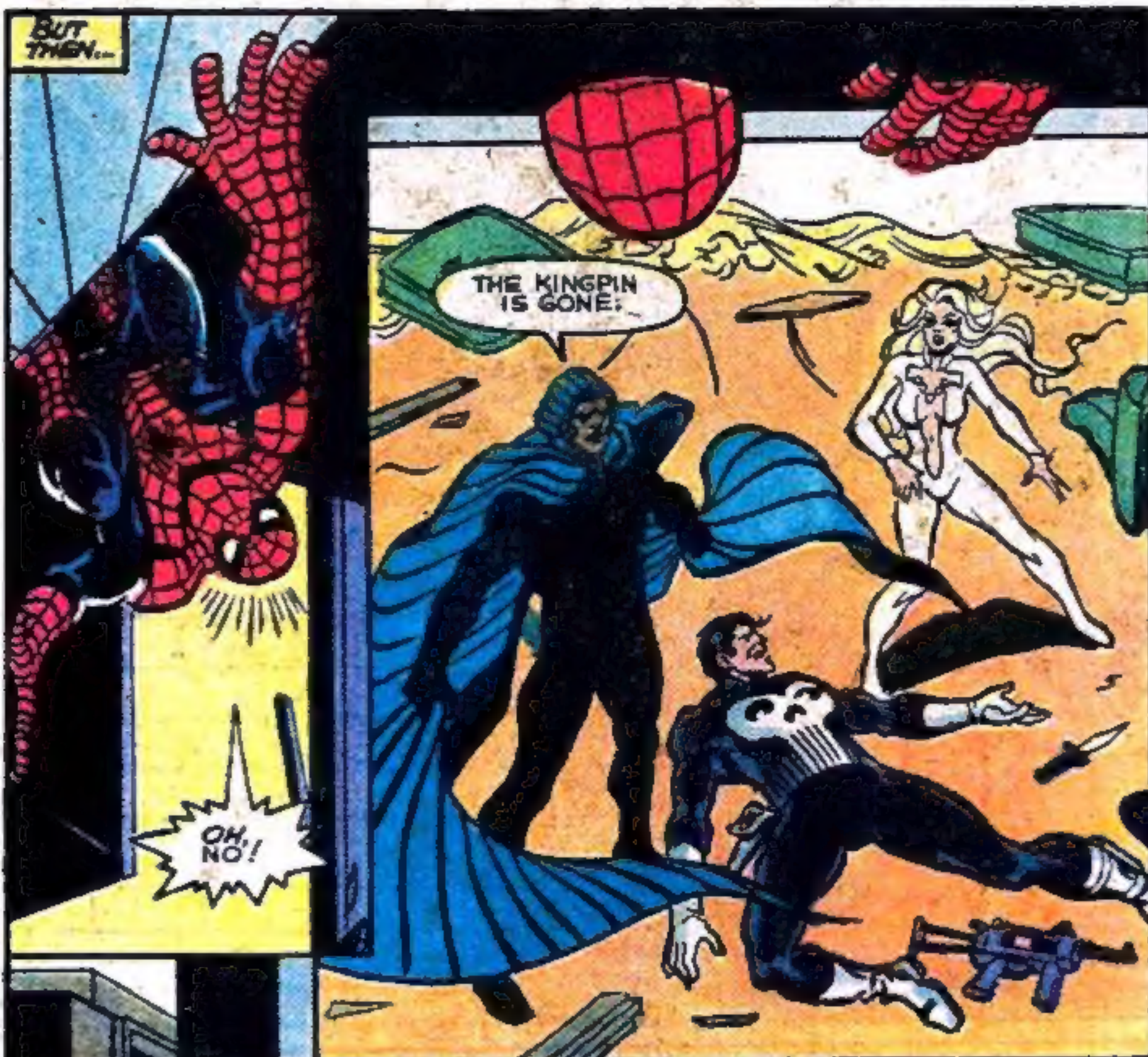
DOLLARS'LL GET YOU DOUGHNUTS THAT THERE'S SOME SORT OF SECRET PANEL HERE!

VOILA! MY SPIDER-SENSE HAS LOCATED IT!

IT'S SHUT TIGHT, BUT LET'S SEE WHAT HAPPENS WHEN I APPLY MY STICKY LITTLE FINGERS --



--AND THE PROPORTIONATE STRENGTH OF A SPIDER!



BUT THEN...

THE KINGPIN IS GONE!

OH, NO!

HE LEFT THE PUNISHER AS A GESTURE OF HIS CONTEMPT...
DIDN'T EVEN CONSIDER HIM WORTHY OF KILLING.



THE PUNISHER USED US TO GET AT THE KINGPIN.

HE'S PAID FOR HIS MISTAKE!



RIGHT! THE PUNISHER'S PAID! BUT IF THE KINGPIN COULD DO THIS TO A GUY LIKE HIM—



--WHAT'S HE GONNA DO THE NEXT TIME HE RUNS INTO A COUPLE OF KIDS--



--NAMED CLOAK & DAGGER?!

NEXT ISSUE:

THE FATE OF THE PUNISHER! SPIDER-MAN CONFRONTS THE BLACK CAT! AND MORE! DON'T MISS...

DELUSIONS!



SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAIL

© MARVEL COMICS GROUP
387 Park Avenue South
New York, New York 10016

TOM DeFALCO
EDITOR
ELIOT BROWN
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Dear Tom,

Powerful is the only word that describes PETER PARKER #76. It may have been a bit gruesome at times, but that was for effect - and effective it was. Spider-Man's anguish was very real and understandable because Felicia's life was clearly in danger.

One of the most poignant scenes in the issue was when Spidey brought the Cat to the emergency room. A sincere thank you to Bill for obviously having done his research - the meticulous detail gave the scene the gritty realism it needed to work. All in all the best portrayal of hospital procedure I've seen in comics.

Al Milgrom's art was very good, helping to convey the starkness of the emotions, such as on page 20. He also portrayed an element often missing from Spider-Man's character, his spidery quality, particularly on page 16. Great!

David Allen
Oney Central College
5 Douglas Dr.
Oney, IL 62450

Dear Tom:

I must say that PPTSS #76 was the best comic I have read in a long time. The issue affected me very deeply. I experienced Spider-Man's anguish when the Black Cat was trapped by Dr. Octopus's torn arms and shot by Octopus's and the Owl's henchmen. And I unabashedly admit I shed a tear or two with Spider-Man and Felicia in the hospital recovery room. For what it's worth, I hope Bill, Al and Jim will accept my praise for their creative efforts this issue.

As for the Black Cat, please keep her around. I think she is one of the best things that could happen to Spider-Man (and Peter Parker). After all, something good happens eventually to everyone, doesn't it? Even Spider-Man. Besides, I think I could love Felicia Hardy as much as Spider-Man!

Steven Hanover
R 18376 W. 400N-27
Converse, IN 46919

Judging from this month's mail, Steven, you are definitely not alone!

Dear Tom:

PETER PARKER #76 was the first Spider-Man story that I've read in a long time. Although I think that our hero should be portrayed realistically, Pete's life has been so depressing that I can't bear to see him tortured so. His love life has been particularly rotten.

The Black Cat has been one of my favorite characters for a long time. When I saw her on this issue's cover, I was destroyed. I thought you were going to kill her and make me very angry with you. but you saved her! Hallelujah! Tom, I'm on my knees now. Pete needs a break. So do I. Let him marry her. You can't be cruel to him again. Don't kill her. I'm sure that everyone in Marveldom could use a good lift. How about it?

David Wakeman
2772 Whitman Dr.
Brooklyn, NY 11234

Pete's love life has never gone smoothly, David - and we're not about to wager what's going to happen now! But you might be interested to know that not

all our readers share your enthusiasm for a permanent Black Cat/Spidey union. Case in point...

Dear Tom,

Ever since the Black Cat showed up in PETER PARKER #75, things have been going downhill. I liked the Black Cat up till now, but it makes me sick the way she calls Spider "lover" and the way he now runs around like a crazy man to check on her.

I always thought the web-head and the Black Cat would make a nice couple, but now that it's happening, I see that it isn't what I want at all! Doctor Octopus is a foe I never really liked, but now he has the right idea: trying to get rid of the Cat. Hurry up and finish this tale soon.

Gary Peterson
410 Farmingdale Rd.
West Babylon, NY 11704

We'll have to wait and see, Gary. Meanwhile, here's yet another opinion on the subject to consider...

Dear Guys,

It's going to be interesting to read the Spectacular Spider Mail in the next few months, especially the letters saying what a great crime-fighting team Spidey and the Black Cat are going to make and how Felicia Hardy should be Spidey's next love interest. I think those people who feel this way are in for a big surprise. Those who feel that Spidey and the Black Cat could have a lasting relationship are ignoring some pretty obvious realities: 1) Spidey has admitted his love for the Black Cat yet he has not yet revealed his true identity to her. Felicia has fallen in love with someone who she doesn't even know. 2) Spidey works best alone. He won't take on the Black Cat as a partner even if he does maintain a relationship with her because he won't allow her to be exposed to such danger. 3) The Black Cat is Spidey's girlfriend not Peter's.

I have really enjoyed the past few issues of PETER PARKER, especially #76. The cover was excellent even though I was sure that Felicia would never meet the same fate as Gwen Stacy. Bill Mantlo's stories have never been better. I am also impressed with Al Milgrom's art. He is not only a fine editor, but a fine artist as well.

Glen Goldfin
2 Brookville Dr.
Cherry Hill, NJ 08003



Dear Tom,

I just have one request: keep Bill Mantlo and Al Milgrom doing PPTSS. Issues #75-77 are some of my favorite Spider-Man stories ever!

Matt Mulkeen
15 Washburn Dr.
Simsbury, CT 06070

Dear Tom,

What made #77 a good issue was Potter remaining straight at the end. This shows that people can change for the better.

John Brittan
Daly City, CA 94016

Dear Spider-People:

PPTSS #77 was great! The cover reminded me of Ditko - did Milgrom do it? The Gladiator was a breath of fresh air. I enjoyed the breather from the Doctor Octopus story, but I am anxious to find out what happens. If Spider-Man used Gladiator's wrist blades, he might be able to beat the good doctor. I like the way things are developing, and find myself liking it more every day!

Robert Pope
202 Nantucket Ave.
Summerville, SC 29483

Then we must be doing something right, Robert. By the way, issue #77's smashing (or should that be slashing?) cover was indeed rendered by Al Milgrom.

Dear Tom,

Issue #77 was about the most off-beat issue I've read in years! It was so unpredictable and real. First off, the cover was really an eye-catcher. Next, your page one was a great way of showing us the staff. I've always wanted to know what you guys looked like and in one surprising stroke you totally satisfied me! Milgrom and Mooney's art flowed beautifully and powerfully page after page, and even panels with little action were just superb. The story was wild! The crooks were just as dumb as those out in the streets today. The plight of Potter was sad. I've felt pressured by friends to do things I don't want to just like he was, and that made this story very real to me! The ending with Gladiator regaining his senses and even helping Spidey with his costume was sheer brilliance.

CK
Box 8153
Incirlik Air Base Turkey
APO NY 09289

Dear Tom:

Re: PPTSS #77

The cover was great. The masks and credits on the splash page were pure genius. The ending was neat. I'm glad Spidey finally found someone to do his sewing. The whole book was great. Thanks.

Vince Watkins
M-3 Iberia Village
New Iberia, LA 70560

You're welcome, Vince.

NEXT MONTH: The trial of the Punisher is featured in "Delusions." Join us. You just might learn something about the Spectacular Spider-Man... and yourself!